## Spanning the Gap



U.S. Dept. of the Interior National Park Service

**Fall Colors** 

Spanning the Gap
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Fall is one of the most exciting times to visit
Delaware Water Gap. Days are bright and cool, and
a array of colors can be seen covering the hillsides.
The color-changing process is initiated by the
shorter period of daylight, and the brightest colors
can be seen during the first two weeks of October
.Maples, oaks, and dogwoods turn to shades of
purple and red. Hickories, ash and maples become
yellow, brown, and orange.

There are many ways to observe fall colors in the park. An auto tour of the New Jersey side of the river can be very rewarding. Old country roads pass through the small communities of Peters Valley, Walpack Center, and Millbrook Village. This route also travels through the Walpack Valley where rich hues of orange, red, and yellow coat the hillsides of the Kittatinny Ridge.

The Water Gap, impressive during at any time of year, is especially beautiful during the fall. The best way to see the Water Gap by car is at the three overlooks located off Route 611 on the Pennsylvania side of the park, but for those ready for a hike, the trek part-wat up Mt. Minsi will provide a view of the Gap clear down to the river at Kittainny Point.

For the long-distance hiker, the Appalachian Trail and the *Red Dot* (Mount Tammany) Trail provide excellent views of the Delaware Valley below. A long but less vigorous hike along Upper Hamilton Ridge Trail near Millbrook Village will provide plenty of forest views. This trail can form a four mile round-



The Delaware Water Gap seen from Kittatinny Point NJ.



trip loop southward from Millbrook, combined with the trails through Van Campens Glen, Watergate Recreation site, and Millbrook Village.

In Pennsylvania, shorter walks at Dingmans Falls or at Childs Park provide surprising splashes of yellow in contrast with the dark green of hemlock trees. Five miles of McDade Trail from Hialeah Picnic Area northward to the Turn Farm Trailhead provides a variety of forest covers and fields to observe.

Take the time to get out and see your park in its fall splendor!

Route 602 descending into the park toward Millbrook Village NJ.